

Key discussions and actions from PCLF meeting held on 4 October 2022 at Fair Maid's House, 15-19 North Port, Perth PH1 5LU
Chair: Mike Robinson

Forum Attendees						Apologies					
Mike Robinson	MR	Gareth Ruddock	GR	Thomas Glen	TG	Nicola Chakraverty	NC	Tricia Fox	TF	Steven Stewart	SS
Nick Rowan	NR	Iain Hutchison	IH	Grant Laing	GL	David Tollick (for PNCP)	DT	Alyxs Dellaquaglia	AD	David Howe	DH
Alan Caldwell	AC	Dawn Fuge	DF	Jackie Brierton	JB						

Ref	Agenda Item	Lead	Action/Update	Action Owner & Target Date
1.0	Welcome & Apologies	MR	Tricia, Steve, Alyxs and David all sent their apologies	
2.0	Minutes from meeting on 18-05-22	MR	Approved	
3.0	Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership's (PNCP) programme report and next steps	DT	<p>PNCP executive summary available here</p> <p>PNCP works with a range of partners including PKC to address the climate crisis through ecological restorations at landscape scale. Their aim is to connect Scotland's two National Parks in the Trossachs and the Cairngorms. Rural areas offer the biggest opportunities to sequester carbon, so landscape use in these areas must change. The Partnership itself owns no land, instead it works on practical projects to connect the economic and social players affected by all aspects of landscape development.</p> <p>A crucial element of PNCP's work is balancing the needs for nature restoration and for rural development, strengthening links to rural communities. Landowners and investors must work strategically to alleviate flooding, avoid isolated monocultural tree planting, to improve biodiversity. Progress is slow as it is hard to gain traction with big landowners and more urgency is needed to move beyond purely business transactions and bring in the community voice. Communication is key.</p> <p>Work to date has been focussed in the Highlands, where there are relatively few large landowners. Recently requests for support have also come from smaller landowners in Lowland areas.</p>	

			Any support the PCLF can offer in connecting all aspects of landscape development would be gratefully received. DT would be very pleased to have further discussions – email address available from NC.
4.0	Cost of Living Crisis	MR	<p><u>Perth Foodbank</u></p> <p>A small group from PCLF visited the premises in Cutlog Vennel to learn how we can best support them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They desperately need new premises where food can both be stored and distributed. Their budget is £20k/year or less. For reference, NC has the specifications of what they are needing. • 75% of donations currently come from supermarkets. This leaves them short of 1 tonne of food every month. Procuring this is extremely time consuming and complicated. • Support from some new trustees/board members as well as a treasurer would be helpful.
		GR	<p><u>Big Lunch</u> is planned for Friday 28th November at Dewars at 1pm</p> <p>Following the Business Leaders’ meeting in June, the Big Lunch aims to tackle the cost-of-living crisis with the potential of making a real and immediate impact. It will bring together the charity sector, business & statutory sectors and people living the experience of poverty to discuss real solutions to the problems being faced. As well as asking for support from businesses in kind, we also want to maximise funds, asking businesses to match/exceed the £25k given to PCLF by PKC to tackle the crisis.</p> <p>Ideally, this will be established as a regular lunch over the winter to bring together clients and possible support agencies, creating an active local network to tackle the cost-of-living crisis over the winter.</p>
		AC	<p><u>Fuel & Heat</u>: Project Sandstone – decarbonising heating for Perth & Kinross</p> <p>1: Project Sapphire is successfully moving forward in Glasgow, where Glasgow Council owns land for solar arrays and battery storage, providing a 45% saving over grid electricity. PKC doesn’t have land for Project Sandstone to use, so other sites must be found. Proof of Concept projects are in progress for 4 identified sites around Perth as well as in Crieff, Blairgowrie and Dunkeld & Birnam. The revenue from the sites will be high, so they are an attractive proposition for landowners.</p> <p>2: Thermify (heating system using heat generated by computers instead of burning gas - see here)</p>

		MR	<p>Thermify is currently looking for 1000 – 2000 housing association or business properties to run another pilot scheme. The only cost is a one-off payment of £250 per property to install the Thermify ‘boiler’. We are waiting for examples/evidence of success from other schemes before volunteering properties in Perth & Kinross, although in principle the scheme seems very promising.</p> <p>3: The financial backers of Bluestone Energy and Project Sandstone are interested in supporting a ‘Centre of Excellence’ for training and building the skills required to drive renewable energy solutions in the residential and commercial sectors. PCLF agreed to follow up possibilities.</p> <p><u>Insulation</u> It is crucial to get insulation into housing to bring heating costs down. An insulation programme should run alongside Project Sandstone and Thermify. Firms installing insulation ought to be regulated.</p>	
5.0	Media & Stories	MR	We need to find an effective communication method to publicise news of what is happening. Perhaps social media is the best way? Small City Big Personality was excellent but is no longer operating. Can we resurrect this? Further discussion around this is needed.	
6.0	Next Events	MR	Not discussed	
7.0	AOB		There is talk of bringing Dundee students to Perth for accommodation as they would only be 20 minutes from Dundee by train. Having young people living in the centre of Perth would be excellent for the city, bringing a much-needed living vibrancy and the associated benefits to the centre.	
	Date of Next Meeting		Tuesday 6 th December 2022, 5pm	